



National
Foreign
Assessment
Center

HR

~~Secret~~
~~NOFORN-NOCONTRACT~~

Area Briefs

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: JUN 11 1999


JAN 11, 1978

~~Secret~~

ORIGINAL AND FOLLOW COPY TO CABLE SECRETARIAT. REMOVE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.
 2. 257 MARGIN FOR 65 CHARACTERS IN A LINE INCLUDING SPACES. DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMITATION.
 3. MESSAGES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE.

← ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX.

TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE →

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15c LA TIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] 11 JANUARY 1978.4

CHILE: //THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM LAST WEEK WAS A CLEAR PERSONAL VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT PINOCHET THAT EXCEEDED HIS OWN EXPECTATIONS. THE TURNOUT WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY--ABOUT 5.4 MILLION OF ALMOST 6 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS, WITH 75 PERCENT FAVORING THE GOVERNMENT'S REJECTION OF THE UN RESOLUTION CENSURING CHILE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.// [REDACTED]

//WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYED FRAUD IN THE PLEBISCITE. THE GOVERNMENT POSITION WAS CAREFULLY WORDED TO APPEAL TO THE STRONG NATIONALISM OF THE CHILEANS; PINOCHET THEREBY ASSURED HIMSELF OF AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE AGAINST THOSE GROUPS THAT URGED A NEGATIVE VOTE.// [REDACTED]

//PINOCHET'S VICTORY WILL CONSOLIDATE HIS SUPPORT WITHIN THE MILITARY, PARTICULARLY THE ARMY, WHERE DOUBT ABOUT HIS JUDGMENT AND LEADERSHIP WAS BEGINNING TO SPREAD, AND WILL REAFFIRM HIS PRE-EMINENT POSITION IN THE JUNTA. AS A RESULT, HE WILL HAVE A FREER HAND IN MANY AREAS.// [REDACTED]

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ORIGINAL AND YELLOW COPY TO CARL'S SECRETARIAT REMOVE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
 SET MARGIN P. 15 CHARACTERS TO A LINE, INCLUDING SPACES DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMITATION
 1 MESSAGES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE

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15c //PINOCHET WILL NOT HESITATE TO POINT TO THE REFERENDUM
 RESULTS AS EVIDENCE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMACY AND OF HIS OWN
 POLITICAL ASTUTENESS. HE HAS REMARKED THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE
 ELECTION OR VOTING FOR A DECADE, AND EVIDENTLY INTENDS TO ACT AS
 THOUGH HE NOW HAS A MANDATE FOR THE SLOW TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN
 RULE THAT HE OUTLINED LAST JULY. //

//HIS REMARKS ON PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS
 HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT, HOWEVER, AND HE MAY SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY ON
 THIS POINT. THE CHILEANS, HAVING BEEN ALLOWED TO EXERCISE THE VOTE,
 ARE NOW LIKELY TO BE MORE STRIDENT IN DEMANDING GREATER POLITICAL
 PARTICIPATION. //

//WE EXPECT NO HARSH CRACKDOWNS, BUT PINOCHET WILL ALMOST
 CERTAINLY BE TOUGHER TOWARD HIS OPPONENTS IN THE OUTLAWED POLITICAL
 PARTIES AND IN LABOR AND CHURCH CIRCLES. ; ALTHOUGH HE HAS PROCLAIMED
 THAT THE CURFEW AND THE STATE-OF-SIEGE RESTRICTIONS WILL REMAIN IN
 FORCE, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT HE WILL RELAX THEM WHEN HE THINKS
 HE HAS MADE THE POINT THAT CHILE IS NOT SENDING TO FOREIGN PRESSURE. //

//PINOCHET WILL, HOWEVER, USED OUT DISSENTERS WITHIN

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1. DO NOT REMOVE TAG. REPERFORATE MATERIAL MUST BE STAPLED ONLY TO THE TAG DURING COORDINATION AND RELEASE OF THE MESSAGE. SEND ORIGINAL AND TELETYPE COPY TO CABLE SECRETARIAT. REMOVE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.
 2. SET MARGIN FORMER CHARACTER TO A LINE INCLUDING SPACES. DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMITATION.
 3. MESSAGE SHALL BE CONSIDERED IN TIME UNLESS A HIGHER PRIORITY IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESS LINE.

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THE GOVERNMENT. HE HAS ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO REORGANIZE⁰ THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS IN THIS MINISTRY-- INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER, ADMIRAL CARVAJAL--HAD PROTESTED THE CALL FOR THE REFERENDUM. THE JUNTA MEMBERS WHO OPPOSED THE VOTE-- AIR FORCE CHIEF LEIGH AND NAVY CHIEF MERINO--MAY BE FORCED TO STEP ASIDE. //

//LEIGH IS STILL SNIPING AT PINOCHET. ALTHOUGH HE HAS PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED HIS LOYALTY AND BURNED OFF SUGGESTIONS OF A SPLIT IN THE JUNTA, PINOCHET IS BECOMING A POWER-HUNGRY DICTATOR. LEIGH ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE CIA IS BACKING HARD-LINERS IN HOPES OF TOPPLING THE PRESIDENT. //

//LEIGH'S MOTIVES ARE FAR FROM CLEAR, BUT HIS STATEMENTS-- ALMOST CERTAIN TO LEAK--WILL MAKE HIS POSITION EVEN MORE UNTENABLE. LEIGH MAY BE TRYING TO PROVOKE PINOCHET INTO REMOVING HIM, PERHAPS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD CATALYZE OPPOSITION WITHIN THE ARMED SERVICES AND LEAD TO PINOCHET'S REMOVAL. //

//PINOCHET HAS STRESSED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ADOPT A MORE AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICY, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING A

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THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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APPENDIX 1. REFERENCES

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HARDER LINE TOWARD THE UN AND OTHER CRITICS.-/

///IT IS DIFFICULT 'TO JUDGE ~~HOW~~ HE WILL PLAY THE RELATION-
SHIP ~~WITH~~ THE US. ALTHOUGH IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON
REMAIN A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF HIS GOVERNMENT, PINOCHET PROBABLY
BELIEVES THAT A SPECIFIC QUID PRO QUO--SUCH AS SUPPORT FOR CHILE'S
REQUESTS FOR LOANS 'THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS--SHOULD BE
~~FORTHCOMING IN RETURN~~ FOR FURTHER RESPONSES ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.
THE CHILEAN APPROACH TO THE US FOR MEDIATION ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL
DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA DEMONSTRATES SOME HOPE FOR GOOD RELATIONS
WITH THE US. /

//CHILE HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN IMPROVING ITS
HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. AND MOST CHILEANS PROBABLY RESENT WHAT THEY
REGARD AS A LACK OF RECOGNITION OF THIS CHANGE. AMONG THE IMPROVE-
MENTS NOTED [REDACTED] BY THE RED CROSS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE:

--//A MARKED REDUCTION IN REPORTS OF TORTURE, ILLEGAL
 DETENTIONS, AND "DISAPPEARANCES." / [REDACTED]

--//CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN TREATMENT OF POLITICAL

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PRISONERS. ABOUT 250 PERSONS REMAIN IMPRISONED ON SECURITY-RELATED CHARGES.//

--//THE RELEASE OF 4,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

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